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Page 7




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# LONG SCHOOL RUN DONE?




New policy: Tiffin Girls' School Deadlinepix HY4900

## Tiffin Girls' School to prioritise pupils by postcode

Girls in Kingston could soon have a greater chance of getting into one of the best schools in the country.

Tiffin Girls' School has revealed plans to introduce a catchment area for the first time, giving priority to pupils in south-west London and north Surrey, stretching from Ealing to Epsom, and Walton to Mitcham.

According to the Richmond Road school's draft admission arrangements, the proposals have arisen amid concern for out-of-borough students travelling long distances.

It reads: "We are delighted that the school is popular and thriving, however, we are increasingly concerned about the distances some girls are expected to travel each day to and from school.

by HANA HAUSMEISTER
hana.hausmeister@london.newsquest.co.uk

"We believe that all our students should be able to participate fully in the life of the school, both in and outside lessons, and have time to enjoy their time outside school too."

The school, rated top girls' school in the national A-level league tables in 2010, has come under increasing pressure to admit more children from the borough.

In 2012, 1,879 pupils applied for just 150 places.

A campaign led by Burton Road, Richmond Park Road and Gibbon Road residents' association was set up to encourage residents to lobby the school to accept more Kingston pupils.

Under the plans, applicants will still have to sit an admissions exam, but priority will be given to those who live in the catchment area, and who perform highly in the exams.

Councillor Andrea Craig said: "I am absolutely thrilled to hear about this proposal. We live in an area full of children academically capable of going to the school, and it is great to hear that this may be helping local students to get accepted."

Zac Goldsmith, Richmond Park MP, said: "I am so pleased to see that the school is serious about providing more support for local children, and addressing the huge distance some girls are travelling to get there. It is a hugely impressive school, and this move can only strengthen it."

The Admissions Code 2012 maintains that parents who live outside a school's catchment area may still express an interest in the school, but Tiffin Girls' said these pupils would be unlikely to get a place.

Parents are being asked to comment on the proposed arrangements in writing by noon on February 13.

❑ **See tomorrow's Surrey Comet for a full report.**

## Inside

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- Council bosses grilled over child protection failures which led to £128k pay-off
- Love Kingston fundraising activities planned for Valentine's Day

**SPORT**

Back to back wins for the Dons

the Source

Behind the scenes with Noel Coward's The Vortex



New look? Cromwell Road bus station

Deadlinepix KT72846

# Bus station may be in line for upgrade

by JON SHARMAN
jon.sharman@london.newsquest.co.uk

Transport for London (TfL) has revealed tentative plans to improve bus stations in the capital, including Kingston's Cromwell Road station.

Its draft business plan, which sets out TfL's investment programmes for the next 10 years, states from 2015 "major modernisation" could be carried out involving the installation of energy-efficient fixtures and fittings.

The document said the renovations would "improve the environment and enhance customer experience".

More details are to be released once consultation has taken place with Kingston Council.

Other organisations, such as disability groups, will also take part to ensure accessibility.

A TfL spokesman said: "TfL has no firm plans for Kingston, but will discuss any proposals with the borough and other stakeholders in due course."

Theo Harris, chief executive of Kingston Centre for Independent Living, said: "If they were looking to change one thing a good one would be an accessible toilet – but not just a bog-standard one.

"We also need to ensure the business plan also takes into account what they plan to do about drivers and their attitudes towards disabled people."

## Passengers' view



**Jane Goldsmith, 76, said:** "I think the bus stop is not big enough and needs to have more adequate shelter. The stop is quite far away from town and it is a nuisance to walk from the Bentall centre, as the other bus stops are always too busy."



**Student Victoria Jenner, 25, said:** "I think the timetables are quite reliable. The energy efficient fixtures can only be a good thing, like the dual fuelled buses that are around. I would like the leaks in the bus stop shelters to be fixed, though."

**Edward Silver, 50, said:** "The bus stop needs an upgrade, such as screens to tell passengers when buses are due. The information desk also needs to be open more to give better service to the commuters."



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# Bin bags turn street into eyesore

Bin bags are being left strewn outside on one of Kingston's most picturesque shopping streets because of a lack of bins.

The rubbish in Old London Road in Kingston is causing headaches for residents and traders, who have to leave loose bin bags outside.

Mark Field, secretary of the Old London Road traders' association, said: "The big problem is for people that are residents above the flats as most of them don't have dustbins, so it gets put out there on other days as well."

Kezia Coleman, 23, has to store rubbish on her fire escape.

She said: "In the summer it absolutely reeks. When we moved in we didn't realise we wouldn't have any bins.

"There does appear to be space for communal wheelie bins."

A Kingston Council spokesman said it was aware that the lack of bins for a small number of flats was "less than ideal" but that it had no power to force landlords to build space for bins.

# Firefighters to protest closures

**Thousands of firefighters are expected to lobby a meeting where plans to close up to 31 fire stations across the capital are due to be discussed.**

**Members of the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) will picket the brigade's London headquarters on Monday, January 21, ahead of a fire authority meeting where plans to cut £65m from the service's budget by closing stations, axeing jobs and losing engines will be tabled.**

**As previously reported by the Kingston Guardian, the draft options include downgrading Kingston from having two fire appliances to just one.**

**Paul Neale, London south-west area organiser for the FBU, said: "There's a lot of anger and frustration at it.**

**"The Prime Minister went to a fire station on election night and promised no station closures. Now we're looking at 30 stations facing closure, redundancies, losing pumps and recruiting being stopped.**

**"Even if they don't reduce the number of stations this time, they're going to come after us next year or the year after that.**

**"It's putting the public at risk and it is totally unacceptable."**

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Recovering: Natalie Wright and Simon Heathorn at the scene of the accident

Deadlinepix KT72874

# New year on crutches after hit-and-run crash

A motor scooter rider spent New Year's Eve on crutches after being knocked off her scooter on Christmas Day by a hit-and-run driver.

Simon Heathorn, 38, and Natalie Wright, 36, were both riding to their home in Tudor Drive, Kingston, on motor scooters to spend their first Christmas at home together.

They were returning from visiting Mr Heathorn's mother – who suffers from Alzheimer's disease – in Worcester Park when the accident happened just after 5pm in Kingston Road at the junction with South Lane West.

Miss Wright, who works in investment banking, suffered severe internal bruising and lacerations to her knee and was taken to Kingston Hospital. She had to have stitches and has been on crutches since, celebrating New Year's Eve at home.

by NAZIA DEWJI
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She said: "I saw a car coming towards me so I slowed down, but he carried on as if I was not there. I had no time to brake. I hit the side of the car. I hit the bonnet. I bounced off it. I remember hitting a lot of things. I felt the tyre go past my face – the breeze of it. He just carried on – dragged my bike and nearly ran over my head."

Mr Heathorn, a credit controller, said: "I was in front – she was tailing me. I looked in my rear view mirror. He didn't stop or brake. It was like she did not exist. I saw my fiance lying on the floor. We were excited about spending our first Christmas together. We were going to cook a meal and crack open a bottle of champagne. Christmas was ruined."

A Kingston police spokesman said: "Officers were called to a hit-and-run collision involving a car and a moped on Christmas Day.

"The driver of the car did not stop at the scene. Enquiries are ongoing to locate the driver to speak to them regarding the collision."

Miss Wright said: "I don't know if the person just was not looking, whether they were drunk or on drugs. It was like I was invisible.

"It just drove off at like 20 miles per hour – not speeding. I thought I had broken my back. It was awful but I am happy to be alive."

# Shoppers 'out in force' over Xmas

**The Bentall Centre boasted its busiest Boxing Day since it began trading on the holiday, as 59,952 shoppers poured through its doors for the sales.**

**But the overall number of shoppers for the Christmas period was down on last year.**

**The busiest day before Christmas was Saturday, December 22 – which was up by 6 per cent on last year.**

**Kirsty Crawford from the Bentall Centre said: "We had a good Christmas – really strong. The total footfall was above national trends. With Christmas falling on a Tuesday, people were really out in force over the weekend.**

**"People said it was going to be doom and gloom but it looks like people still have money to spend."**

**Town centre management company Kingstonfirst is yet to collate its footfall figures.**



Spending: Shoppers hit town KT72828

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Investigation: Carole Waugh's body was found in Lime Court, New Malden
Deadlinepix KT69407

# Trio charged with fraud following Waugh death

by DAVID LINDSELL
dlindsell@london.newsquest.co.uk

Three more people are due to appear in court today charged with fraud by detectives investigating the killing of Carole Waugh, found dead in a New Malden garage.

The body of millionairess Ms Waugh, 50, was found inside a Volkswagen Golf in a lock-up in Lime Court, New Malden, on August 2.

She had been missing since April 16 and died of a single stab wound.

Susan O'Shea, 61, of Hobart Court, Sunset Avenue, Woodford Green, was charged on December 28 with conspiring with Rakesh Bhayani and Nicolas David Kutner to defraud banks and other financial institutions between April and August this year.

Earlier Elie Khoury, 39, of Spring Street, Paddington, and Derek Eastham, 55, of Great Peter Street, Westminster, were also charged with the same conspiracy offence.

All three were bailed to appear at Croydon Magistrates' Court today, January 10.



Killed: Carole Waugh

So far, eight people have been charged in connection with the investigation into Ms Waugh's killing.

Julie Witham, 47, of Broadoak Avenue, Enfield, was arrested on December 20 on suspicion of being part of the same alleged conspiracy to defraud and was bailed.

Rakesh Bhayani, 40, of Chamberlayne Avenue, Wembley, was charged on July 24 with three counts of conspiracy to commit fraud of about £280,000 associated with Carole Waugh's identity.

He has been remanded in custody.

Nicholas David Kutner, 47, was charged on August 16 with four counts of conspiracy to commit fraud including allegedly pretending he was Chris Waugh, Carole Waugh's brother, in order to sell 6 Tressard Court in Mayfair, and withdrawing money from Ms Waugh's account.

Both men were also charged with murder and remanded in custody.

Debbie Burke, 48, of Crossbow Road, Hainault, Essex, and Elaine Perkins, 51, of Claybury Broadway, Clayhall, Ilford, were also charged with being part of the conspiracy to defraud.

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# New year joy for families

by JON SHARMAN
jon.sharman@london.newsquest.co.uk



Special delivery: Sarah and Richard England, from Richmond Hill, with their New Year's Day baby
Deadlinepix KT72871

Others were out drinking and letting off fireworks, but the new year was rung in very differently at Kingston Hospital.

There were 20 babies, 10 boys and 10 girls, born on New Year's Day at the busy maternity department.

Celebrating soon after the clock struck midnight were Dominique Lecky and her husband William.

Their son William was born at 12.23am weighing 7lb 12oz.

Mrs Lecky, from Hampton, said: "I was actually in the hospital when the birth started.

"They were having bets on the ward to see who would have their baby on New Year's Day. They told me I was odds-on favourite, so I was under pressure.

"My husband was keeping an eye on the clock to see what the time was going to be.

"All the fireworks were going off when he was being born. It'll be a good time to celebrate when he's older.

"It feels great and we are all absolutely delighted with him. He's a great new year's present really – it's fantastic."

Another early arrival was Sarah and Richard England's boy, not named yet, who arrived at 1.57am, weighing 8lb 11oz.

Mrs England, from Richmond Hill, said: "We're so excited to have our beautiful little boy. It feels quite surreal to be honest. I feel almost like I'm looking in on myself. We're getting to know each other – he's perfect.

"We had a bit of a race to see who was going to be the first baby of the new year. He's definitely a little man of his own mind – he decided that he wanted to see the new year in."

Her husband Richard joked he was "proud, obviously, and bewildered".

A Kingston Hospital spokesman said: "The maternity unit was very busy throughout New Year's Day and the team coped brilliantly with the arrival of 20 babies.

"We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped to deliver the babies and look after the mums and dads too.

"It's great to be able to welcome so many new babies into the world at the start of 2013."



New addition to the family: William and Dominique with new baby William and their children Seona, Erin and Iona
Deadlinepix KT72871

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Above: David Cadle sculpts a marzipan crown

Hearty: Robert Hoare and Robin Mitchener making stew Deadlinepix BT72848



Food history: Freya Maddock, and Joseph Conroy help out in the kitchen

# Tasting Tudor life

People flocked to Hampton Court Palace on New Year's Eve to take part in live Tudor cookery in Henry VIII's kitchen.

The Tudor kitchens at Hampton Court Palace are famous throughout the world for being those of King Henry VIII and were also used as Royal Court kitchens for a further 200 years, feeding the tables of Tudor, Stuart and Georgian monarchs and their many courtiers.

For the past few years, they have been home to a fascinating research project run by historian food archaeologists, who regularly bring the kitchens to life, experimenting with traditional recipes, ingredients and cooking methods to prepare feasts similar to those consumed by the Tudors.

The culinary delights will continue throughout this year.

For more information about the cookery demonstrations, visit **hrp.org.uk.**



Tudor times: Marc Meltonville and Lydia Perkins, nine

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# Man bailed following burglary

**A man in his 60s from New Malden has been released on police bail after being arrested in connection with a burglary in Esher.**

**The man, who has not been named by police, was arrested in New Malden after a house in New Road was burgled at about 8pm on Wednesday, December 19.**

**A back window was forced open and cash and jewellery were stolen.**

**Officers and a Surrey Police dog unit searched Esher before a man in his 60s was arrested on suspicion of burglary at an address in New Malden.**

**He was bailed to return to Staines police station on February 14.**

**Any witnesses, or anyone with information, should call Surrey Police on 101, or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.**

# Pinhead of the Year award for MP Davey

by ROSS LOGAN
ross.logan@london.newsquest.co.uk

Kingston and Surbiton MP Edward Davey has been named winner of a national poll – but it is unlikely he will be celebrating this particular victory.

The Energy Secretary has been given the dubious honour of Pinhead of the Year by pressure group The TaxPayers' Alliance (TPA).

The TPA conducted an online poll in the 10 days before Christmas Eve, asking supporters to vote for their Pin-Up and Pinhead of the Year.

Mr Davey was nominated for increasing the number of staff at his department in Whitehall and for pursuing green initiatives that would increase the cost of fuel and energy bills.

He came top of the vote with 42.4 per cent of votes cast, while BBC trust chairman Lord Patten of Barnes was second with 27.8 per cent.

TPA political director Jonathan Isaby, who lives in Kingston, said: "People get angry when they see politicians being hypocritical or increasing their costs of living. Ed Davey stands accused of both of these things.

"When the Government is rightly talking about the need for cuts to reduce the size of the public sector, it is astounding that Mr Davey has overseen yet further expansion of his own Whitehall department during the year.

"He also gets the Pinhead of the Year award for continuing to advocate a variety of policies – such as subsidies for renewable energy and the EU Emissions Trading Scheme – which are designed to help the environment but are in fact costing taxpayers dear through higher energy bills."

Mr Davey was not available for comment.


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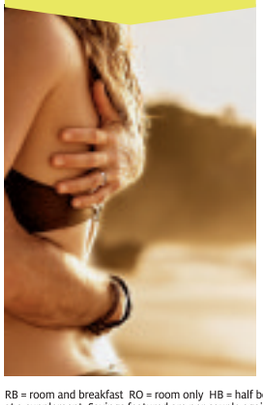
**Top 10: Chef Ajim Uddin, waiter Azmol Miah and chef Abu Helalgh** Deadlinepix KT72747

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ABTA



Wrong present: Bluebelle Morris with the glasses Deadlinepix HA72840

# The mix-up that soured Christmas for toddler

by AMY DYDUCH
amy.dyduch@london.newsquest.co.uk

A four-year-old girl asked her mother why Santa did not love her anymore when a boxed toy pram she opened on Christmas Day contained glass tumblers instead.

Councillor Virginia Morris, a ward councillor for East Sheen, bought the pram from John Lewis in Kingston for her daughter Bluebelle Hills to push her toy doll around in.

On Christmas morning, she let her daughter, helped by one-year-old son Albion Hills, open the present, but was shocked to find there were glasses inside instead of the pram.

She said: "As a child of four, Bluebelle has been waiting for Father Christmas for weeks and for him not to turn up has upset her.

"This is because a child is always told that if they are bad then he will not come.

"Bluebelle has been very good. John Lewis has in effect made her think that Father Christmas does not love her."

She said the pram was her daughter's main present and she let her open it at 8.30am so she could take her doll to church that day.

She said: "My four-year-old daughter had no Christmas present and she thinks Father Christmas doesn't love her any more. I was very angry and disappointed because you work hard for Christmas only to find out you have been let down."

John Lewis told the mother of two it had reserved her pram and she could swap it for the glasses if she came to the store.

She thought John Lewis was unsympathetic to the situation and the fact her daughter was left very upset.

She said: "My husband and I feel that John Lewis has dealt with the loss of her present as a tick box exercise to satisfy their procedures and to their advantage, and not taken into consideration that this is a four-year-old child who has lost out on a very important part of Christmas as a result of this error."

After Coun Morris's complaint, John Lewis delivered the new pram to her home and collected the glasses.

Jenny Tomley, managing director of John Lewis Kingston, said: "We never like to hear customers are unhappy with the service they receive from us, especially when people are affected at such an important time of the year.

"Although mistakes do sometimes happen, we have apologised to Mrs Morris that we didn't do enough to rectify the error we made in this case.

"As well as putting right our mistake by delivering the correct pram, we are pleased Mrs Morris has accepted our offer of vouchers for her daughter to spend in our toy department, as well as a meal for her family at our Place to Eat restaurant.

"We hope this goes some way to making up for the disappointment she experienced."

Get the latest local news at kingstonguardian.co.uk

# OAP dies in crash

A woman who died in a crash on Christmas Eve has been named as Yvonne Sheffield, 79, from Epsom.

The pensioner was driving a car that collided with a van while travelling along Christ Church Road in the West Park area of Epsom at 1.15pm.

Firefighters cut Ms Sheffield from her green Honda Jazz and ambulance crews treated her at the scene, but she was pronounced dead at 1.45pm.

The driver of the white Nissan van, a man in his 40s, is thought to have suffered minor injuries and was taken to St George's Hospital, Tooting, for treatment.

Road closures occurred along Christ Church Road, Leatherhead Road, Rushett Lane and Horton Lane while emergency crews attended the scene and recovered the vehicles.

Witnesses should call police on 101.

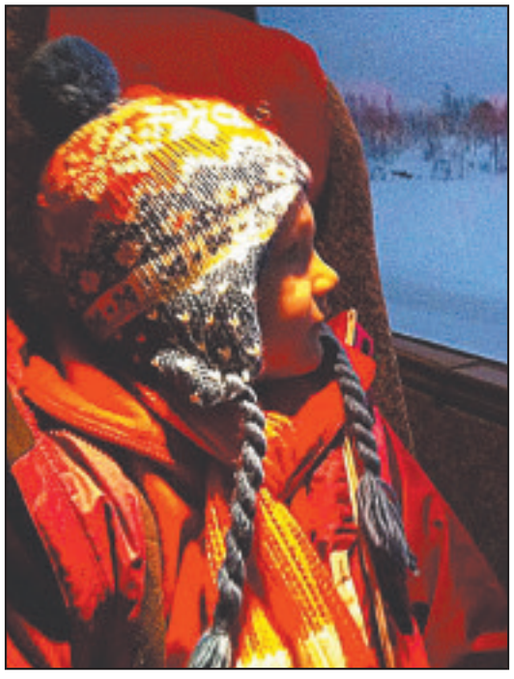
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# Cancer patient Mia travels to Lapland to meet Santa



Ice to see you: Mia Keene on her trip to Lapland

A schoolgirl battling cancer met Santa Claus and his reindeers during a Christmas treat day trip to Lapland.

Mia Keene, eight, from Park Road, Kingston, was whisked off to a real winter wonderland with her family after the last of her chemotherapy treatments in December.

She rode with huskies and toboggans, met reindeers and had a trip to Santa's grotto.

Mia, who is a year 4 student at Latchmere School, said: "I loved climbing up the snow mountain and sliding down it. The snow was my favourite."

Her mum, Fiona Keene, said: "It was touch and go for a while. Mia is quite a fighter and a lively girl. We are waiting for the all clear now but the trip was out of the blue."

She and her younger brother Linus were particularly in awe of the snow as they had not experienced such frosty conditions before.

Mrs Keene said: "It was a very special day. Even though the kids were up at 4am, they were so excited.

"We had bought thermals, woollies and fleeces – the works. It was minus 30C the week before we went.

by NAZIA DEWJI
ndewji@london.newsquest.co.uk

"Luckily it was about minus 8C for us. But I am glad we still took all the thermals."

The trip was organised by the Joshua Foundation, a children's charity that raises money to give children with cancer once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

Mia had cancer of the kidney diagnosed on January 5, 2011, after she became ill on a family holiday to India.

The family, who were living in Hong Kong, moved back to England in the hope of better treatment for Mia.

Mia, who was being treated at the Royal Marsden Hospital, has received 35 doses of chemotherapy, two operations and radiation treatments.

The Keene family were also joined by another family and Miss Great Britain 2012.

Mrs Keene said: "When we first told Mia we were going she jumped up and down and screamed.

"It was a day that people wish for and for us it came out of the blue. It was just great."



Looks like reindeer: Mia with a new friend



Santa's grotto: Mia and her family

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£128k payoff: Duncan Clark

# How can our council justify huge payoff?

The Government and councils are making cuts and tough decisions to save money.

So it is shocking Kingston Council paid £128,000 to the former director of children's services Duncan Clark who resigned before a damning child protection report was to be made public.

When most people resign from their positions they do not receive a payoff.

How can the council justify paying out such a huge amount of money?

It is very clear Kingston Council rewards failure. Residents must be informed by the council leader and the chief executive to explain their decision for this payoff. The money could have been spent in other areas that would have benefited the council and residents. Maybe it is time to have a change at the top.

DANIEL GOODGER
Chessington

## Borough view



Red sky: This picture shows the sun rising over Kingston and was taken by Nathan Lenny

# Is it beneath chief exec to reply to me?

**I recently had a run-in with a Kingston Council department so I wrote to chief executive Bruce McDonald on the basis that management normally wish to be aware when things go wrong.**

**The matter was delegated to the department concerned and, although all my correspondence was addressed to the chief executive, the replies came from the department with the anticipated content of copious justification.**

**Finally, I wrote again to Mr McDonald asking for his personal views on the performance of the department that resulted in a prompt reply with a refusal to comment.**

**Strangely, the two letters purporting to come from Mr McDonald were signed with a scanned facsimile signature.**

**This raises the question. Is the chief executive a person or merely a scanned signature, appended where necessary to correspondence, leaving departments free from effective management?**

**There is, of course, an alternative scenario.**

**If Bruce McDonald does exist, perhaps he considers it beneath him, or simply cannot be bothered, to personally communicate with residents who, after all, pay his salary through one of the highest rates of council tax in the land.**



'Refusing to comment': Council chief executive Bruce McDonald

TOM SMITH
New Malden

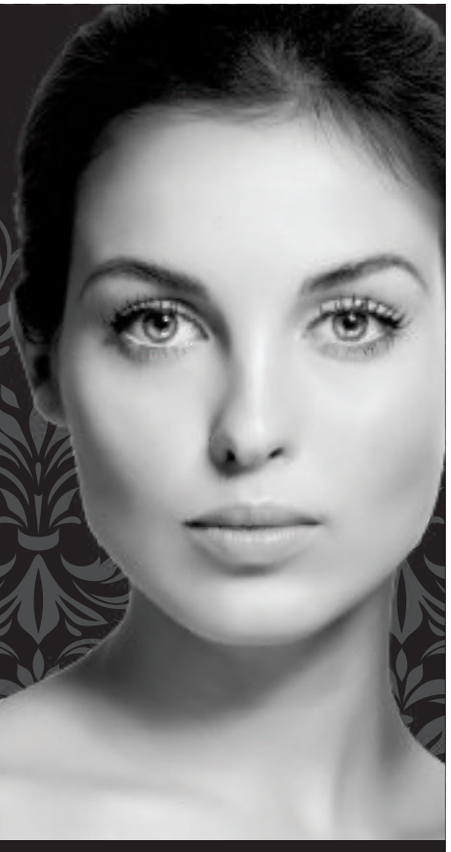
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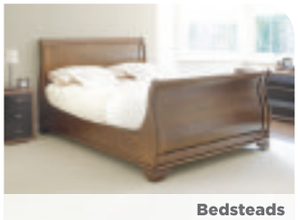
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# Council tax may go up for first time in 3 years

by NAZIA DEWJI
ndewji@london.newsquest.co.uk

Residents are facing the prospect of seeing an increase in their council tax bills for the first time in three years.

Leader of Kingston Council Derek Osbourne admitted he was not hopeful about council tax being frozen in Kingston for the third year running.

Meanwhile, the Mayor of London Boris Johnson has announced a 7p a week cut to his share of the council tax.

He will ask the Metropolitan Police to take a 10 per cent cut and reduce front-line fire cover to allow the 1.2 per cent tax reduction.

A band D property pays £1,352.19 a year to Kingston Council and £306.72 to the Greater London Authority.

But when councillors set the budget in February the borough will have had the amount of money from Government slashed by 13.2 per cent for the coming year with further cuts of 8.8 per cent scheduled for the following financial year.

This means Kingston Council will have £48.2m to spend from 2013 to 2014 and an even lower £43.9m the year after.

Coun Osbourne said: "I am not hopeful there will be a freeze in council tax. We have managed to hold on and continue to provide services, but that will be the issue – can we sustain it without devastating our services?

"We have artificial hope from [Local Government Secretary] Eric Pickles that it is easy to freeze council tax, but we have got to be innovative with funding now. We will make the decision in a couple of weeks."

If councillors agree on a council tax increase by more than a 2 per cent rise then a referendum asking voters if they are willing to pay it will take place.

This figure was originally 3.5 per cent and some authorities chose to raise their council tax to this amount.

But Kingston Labour leader Laurie South said: "Kingston has been too dependent on central Government. What is needed is a complete reform of local government finance."

In 2010 Kingston's 2.4 per cent council tax rise was the highest in London and nearly double that of Bromley and residents still pay one of the highest in the country.



Award: Prof Edith Sim's research into drug metabolism attracted nearly £12m in grants

# Researcher recognised

A Kingston scientist has received an award for her research into how the body absorbs drugs.

Professor Edith Sim, the Dean of Kingston University's faculty of science, received the JR Vane medal from the British Pharmacological Society at a ceremony on December 19.

Her research, carried out over more than 30 years and involving dozens of doctoral and undergraduate students, examines people's responses to medicines and how they can affect the treatment of breast cancer and infectious diseases.

It has gained nearly £12m in grants, including a grant from health foundation the Wellcome Trust.

She said: "It's enormously rewarding to receive such an important acknowledgment of a huge body of research that has taken me and my colleagues decades to complete and includes aspects that will take many more decades to develop.

"I'm fascinated by drug metabolism at a biochemical level, but I'm also proud that my work has implications for the treatment of cancer and infectious diseases."

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Picture: Nahlikari Saalain



# SHE'S A LADY

**AINHOA ALVAREZ**

● **Lady and the Tramps, Ram Jam Club, the Grey Horse, Richmond Road, Kingston; January 13, 8pm; £5; call 020 8541 4328 or visit grey-horse.co.uk**

An up and coming jazz singer will be performing in Kingston in support of charity this weekend, *writes Ross Logan*.



Ainhoa Alvarez will be at the Ram Jam Club this Sunday with her band, Lady and the Tramps.

The Kingston-based vocalist will be performing covers, taking in a variety of influences, including the Great American Songbook, 1950s classics, ballads, swing numbers and Latin rhythms.

Born in San Sebastian in Spain, Ainhoa, known as Noa, was introduced to jazz at an early age by her father and fell in love with the sounds of Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday.

A trained classical pianist, she was always attracted to the spontaneity of jazz, and today performs around the UK with her band.

She will be joined this Sunday by her "Tramps" – Mark Rice-Oxley on keyboards, double bassist Mark Rose and trumpet player Tormund Sund.

The gig will be raising money for mental health charity Mind, in Kingston.

Alvarez says: "It's the first time we have played the Ram Jam, so it's all good.

"I like to do a charity gig every now and then, especially for a local cause like Mind."

For more news on Noa Alverez, visit **noasingsjazz.com**.

## News in brief

**GOOD THOUGHTS:** Let your ideas brew over friendly drinks with Kingston Philosophy Cafe and Philosophy Now editor Grant Bartley. The theme of this year's first gathering will be: What is the Mind? – an exploration of thought and where it may come from.

● **What is the Mind? Ram Jam Club, The Grey Horse, Richmond Road, Kingston; January 16, 7pm to 9pm; free; visit grey-horse.co.uk.**

# Free TIME

Thursday January 10, 2013

kingstonguardian.co.uk/freetime

# PANTOPUPPETRY

Panto season is still in full swing at the Cornerhouse, which celebrates 25 years of pantomime with No Strings Attached.

It is a new take on the story of Pinocchio and his friend Jiminy Cricket.

Tim Harrison has been the dame for all 25 years and said he looked forward to seeing some old faces.

He adds: "In the very first shows, the tiniest children were woodland animals and trees. What's amazing is that several of them are now professional actors and entertainers, so playing in the annual Surbiton panto obviously didn't put them off."

Over the years the centre's panto shows have raised around £50,000 for charity.

● **No Strings Attached; the Cornerhouse, Douglas Road, Surbiton January 29 to February 2, 7.45pm, matinee performance February 2, 4pm; £8 or £6 concessions; visit thecornerhouse.org.**



**"In the very first shows the tiniest children were woodland animals. What's amazing is several of them are now professional actors"**

Picture: Jonathan Constant

**NO STRINGS ATTACHED**

Four comics who have appeared on Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow will take the stage when the Comedy Store visits Kingston's Rose Theatre on Sunday, February 24.

Simon Evans and Imran Yusuf will be joined by Mike Gunn and Keith Farnan from 7.30pm, plus MC Sean Meo, a stand-up and former snooker player.

January's performances will take place on Sunday 27, featuring an international group of funnymen. Addy Van Der Borgh, Louis Ramey, John Lynn and Christian Reilly will be cracking jokes from 7.30pm. MC for the night will be Alistair Barrie.

● **Comedy Store; Rose Theatre, 24-26 High Street, Kingston; January 27 and February 24; £14 on the door, £12 advance; visit rosetheatrekingston.org or call 08444 821556.**



**SIMON EVANS**

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# Counting the cost of that extra bedroom

## Londoners pay four times national average



TAMASIN COATES
property@london.newsquest.co.uk

London homeowners looking to upsize their homes can expect to pay nearly four times the national average in order to take the next step up the property ladder, according to new research by Barclays.

With half (50 per cent) of British homeowners planning to move house within the next five years, and almost two-thirds (58 per cent) setting their sights on a bigger home, they're most certainly going to have to dig deep to fulfil their dreams.

Barclays' analysis of 50,000 mortgage applications found that London homeowners looking to move from a one to a two bedroom property can expect to pay an average of £91,000 for the extra room, compared to a national average of £26,000. Those Londoners looking to take the next step up the property ladder can expect to pay, on average £154,000 for that third bedroom.

This price difference increases again with a move from three to four bedrooms, with homeowners incurring an average price hike of £259,652 across London.

The new figures also lay bare how London homeowners fare compared to the rest of the country. In contrast to the £91,000 homeowners face to step up to a two bedroom house, those living in the north east can expect to face an approximate £10,000 price increase to move from a one to two bed home. Those in the east can expect to pay four times that amount, at £46,000.

However these price increases may come as a shock to homeowners as Barclays' research reveals there are misconceptions about how much homeowners think this next step on the ladder is likely to cost, with homeowners pricing a move from a three bedroom to a four bedroom house at just under £100,000.

With Barclays data showing the actual figure could be 30 per cent higher than that, homeowners are being urged to think ahead in order to be able to upsize.

The desire to help children onto the property ladder remains very strong, with more than a third of parents (38 per cent), planning to help their children. But family support is transcending the traditional parent/child dynamic, with homeowners citing grandparents (10 per cent) aunts and uncles (9 per cent) and even children (6 per cent) as potential sources of support.

In addition, the British property market is being driven by the needs of families: of the parents polled by Barclays, 77 per cent said they felt it essential that children have their own bedroom. Perhaps unsurprisingly the top priority for homeowners is to own a house in a good area, chosen by 23 per cent of people, with living in the catchment area for good schools (12 per cent) coming second, demonstrating again the impact the needs of family life are having on the British property market.

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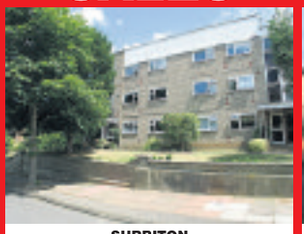
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Kingston Office 020 8549 9033



St Georges Road, Kingston **£575,000**

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Kingston Office 020 8549 9033



Denmark Road, Kingston **£299,950**

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New Malden Office 020 8949 5187



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New Malden Office 020 8949 5187



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Keith White
Surbiton



Tom Headden
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Matthew Jones
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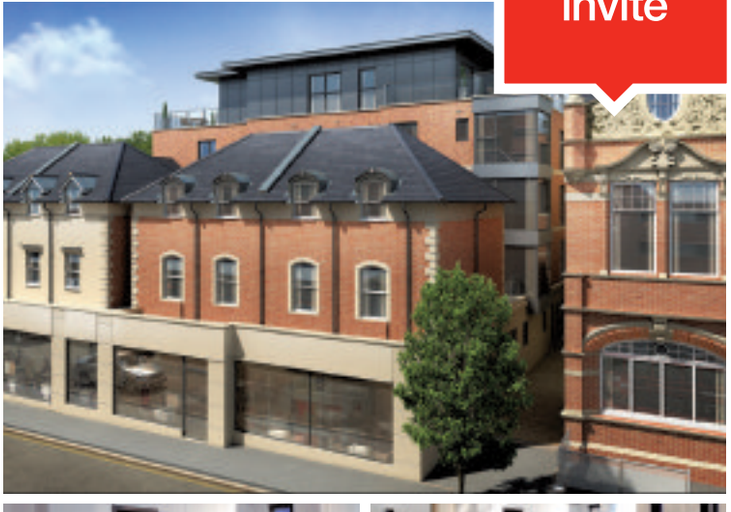
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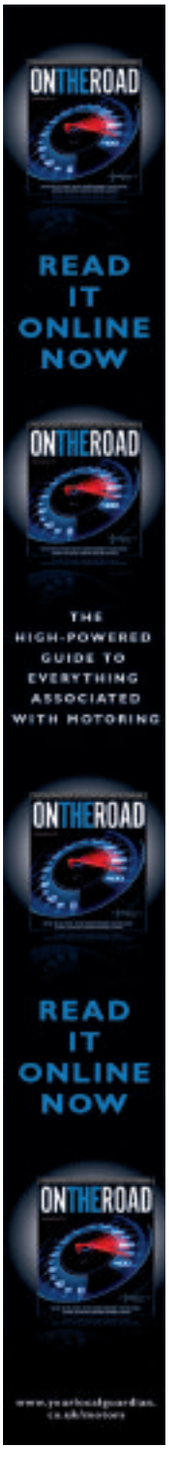
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## Casual keeper cost Corinthian



Three goals in the last 15 minutes left Corinthian Casuals boss Kim Harris frustrated after Saturday's 3-0 defeat at Ryman Division One South high-flyers Dulwich Hamlet.

Danny Bracken, *right*, fumbled a cross to gift the hosts their opening goal on 72 minutes, before strikes in the 87th minute and injury time.

"We were in it for quite a long time. Only a mistake from our keeper made it 1-0 and then we had to chase the game," said Harris ahead of Saturday's visit from Worthing.

More sport: kingstonguardian.co.uk



**Delighted: Aaron Bruce, Sam Shaw and Jorge Beltrao with their medals**

All pictures: Deadlinepix SP72882

## Medals joy for Kingston kids

Kingston AC & Polytechnic Harriers toasted medals at the Surrey Cross Country Championships in Croydon's Lloyd Park on Saturday, *writes Stuart Amos.*

The club's U13 girls led the way with a team silver over the 3.25km course, while the U13 boys collected team bronze for the same distance.

Pippa Earley led the girls home as she finished seventh in 15 minutes, 55 seconds, with Mollie Sullivan (16:26) 10th, Darcey Bourne (16:28) 11th and Rebecca Keddie (17:17) in 20th.



Sam Shaw (15:14) was the first home for the boys in 10th, followed by Jorge Beltrao (15:56) in 18th and Aaron Bruce (16:08) in 24th.

Clubmate Pheobe Law, *right*, put her success down to walking the course to plan her race as she finished third (20:24) in the 6.5km U17 girls' race.

# Promotion is Tolfrey's dream

by STUART AMOS
samos@london.newsquest.co.uk

Kingstonian keeper Rob Tolfrey would love to cap his fourth season at Kingsmeadow with promotion to the Blue Square South.

The 25-year-old made his 150th appearance for the club in the New Year's Day 0-0 draw with Hampton & Richmond Borough and kept a second clean sheet in succession in Saturday's 2-0 win over Wealdstone.

It avenged a 5-2 defeat to the same team in October and cemented Kingstonian's place in the Ryman Premier League top five.

And that is where Tolfrey wants Ks to stay.

"I'd love nothing more than to get promoted with this club," he said.

"It is all about consistency. If we can put a run of good results together – maybe 10 games with only one or two blips – we'll be in a good position to push on."







**Mixed fortunes: (Clockwise from above) Kingstonian striker Wade Small protests after Adam Green received his marching orders on Saturday; Matt Pattison celebrates opening the scoring; and, Andre McCollin hits the second in spectacular fashion at Kingsmeadow**

All pictures: Deadlinepix SP72977

## Surbiton suffer the drop

Surbiton suffered relegation from the Maxifuel National Super Sixes Indoor Premier Division on Sunday after four years in the top flight.

Surbiton started Saturday three points above the bottom two, but lost all four of their weekend games in Burton to Loughborough Students (5-3), Canterbury (10-5), East Grinstead (8-2) and Bowdon (7-4) – conceding 30 goals.

Surbiton Ladies lost to Harleston (5-1) and East Grinstead (4-2) on Saturday, but beat Horsham (2-1) and drew with Brooklands Poynton (2-2) on Sunday.

Surbiton, one point above the drop zone in Division One, face Bristol Firebrands, Trojans, Sevenoaks and Wakefield Bradford this weekend.



**Down: Surbiton's Rob Schilling, right, in action against East Grinstead**

Picture: Ady Kerry/England Hockey

## SPORTS*brief*

**ATHLETICS:** Worcester Park's Phil Wicks finished fourth in senior men's Surrey Cross Country Championships in Croydon. The 28-year-old, who won the race in 2011, 2009 and 2008, clocked 42 minutes, 25 seconds for Belgrave Harriers over the 12km course – 57 seconds behind winner and clubmate Paskar Owor. Kingston AC & Polytechnic Harriers' Gordon Pearce (46:17) was his club's first man home in 21st. In the senior women's race, Jo Bourne (41.31) was 73rd and Nicky Atkins (41:44) came 74th to be Kingston's best performers.

**RUGBY UNION:** Kingston and Old Tiffinians' Surrey One promotion hopes hang in the balance after a pair of defeats at the weekend. Kingston crashed 19-15 at home to Old Whitgiftians on Saturday, while the Old Boys went down 20-14 at Old Cranleighans. The two teams are fourth and fifth respectively. Kingston travel to Old Walcountians this week, while Tiffs host Old Wimbledonians.

**FOOTBALL:** Kingstonian have named John McCormack as their new club president. McCormack played for Ks in the 1960s, scoring 210 goals in 273 appearances.

**ATHLETICS:** Danny Norman set a new personal best of 16 minutes, 51 seconds to win the Kingston parkrun on Saturday.

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## Topnotch New Malden

Classes

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10.00 - 11.00am **Aerobics** | 10.00 - 11.00am **Pilates** | 10.00 - 10.45am **Aqua Fit** | 10.00 - 11.00am **Yoga** | 7.30 - 8.00am **Spin** | 10.00 - 12.00pm **Kids Open Pool** £ | 10.15 - 11.00am **Spin** |
| 4.15 - 5.15pm **Kids Taekwondo** £ | 12.45 - 1.30pm **Zumba** | 12.45 - 1.30pm **Spin** | 12.45 - 1.30pm **Salsa** | 10.00 - 10.45am **Aqua Fit** | 10.00 - 11.15am **Zumba** | 11.00am - 12.00pm **Body Pump** |
| 5.30 - 6.15pm **L.B.T** | 1.30 - 2.30pm **Taekwondo Stretch** | 3.30 - 5.30pm **Kids Open Pool** £ | 6.00 - 7.00pm **Pilates** | 1.00 - 2.00pm **Pilates** | 4.00 - 6.30pm **Taekwondo** £ | |
| 6.15 - 7pm **Zumba** | 5.00 - 5.45pm **Boot Camp** | 4.00 - 5.00pm **Kids Taekwondo** £ | 7.00 - 7.45pm **Spin** | 5.30 - 6.15pm **L.B.T** | | |
| 6.15 - 6.45pm **Aqua Fit** | 6.00 - 7.00pm **Salsa** | 5.30 - 6.30pm **Body Conditioning** | 7.00 - 8.00pm **Body Pump** | 6.30 - 7.30pm **Hour of Power** £ | | |
| 6.45 - 7.30pm **Spin** | 6.30 - 7.00pm **Begin to Spin** | 6.30 - 7.00pm **Aqua Fit** | 8.15 - 9.45pm **Kickboxing** £ | 7.30 - 8.15pm **Salsa** | | |
| 7.00 - 8.00pm **Pilates** | 7.00 - 7.15pm **Ab Blast** | 6.30 - 7.30pm **Yoga** | | | | |
| | 7.00 - 8.00pm **Body Pump** | 7.30 - 8.30pm **Zumba** | | | | |
| | 8.00 - 9.00pm **Yoga** | 8.30 - 9.45pm **Taekwondo** £ | | | | |

**Group Fitness Guidelines:**

Please book classes via the club reception area, by telephone on **020 8942 9429**, or online at **www.topnotchhealthclubs.com**. You can book 6 days in advance. There will be no entry into any class 5 min after the start time.

£ = Additional charge, For further information on these classes, contact the instructor direct, numbers can be obtained at reception.

**Topnotch New Malden**, 23 Blagdon Road, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4AH **Tel: 020 8336 2955**

**www.topnotchhealthclubs.com**

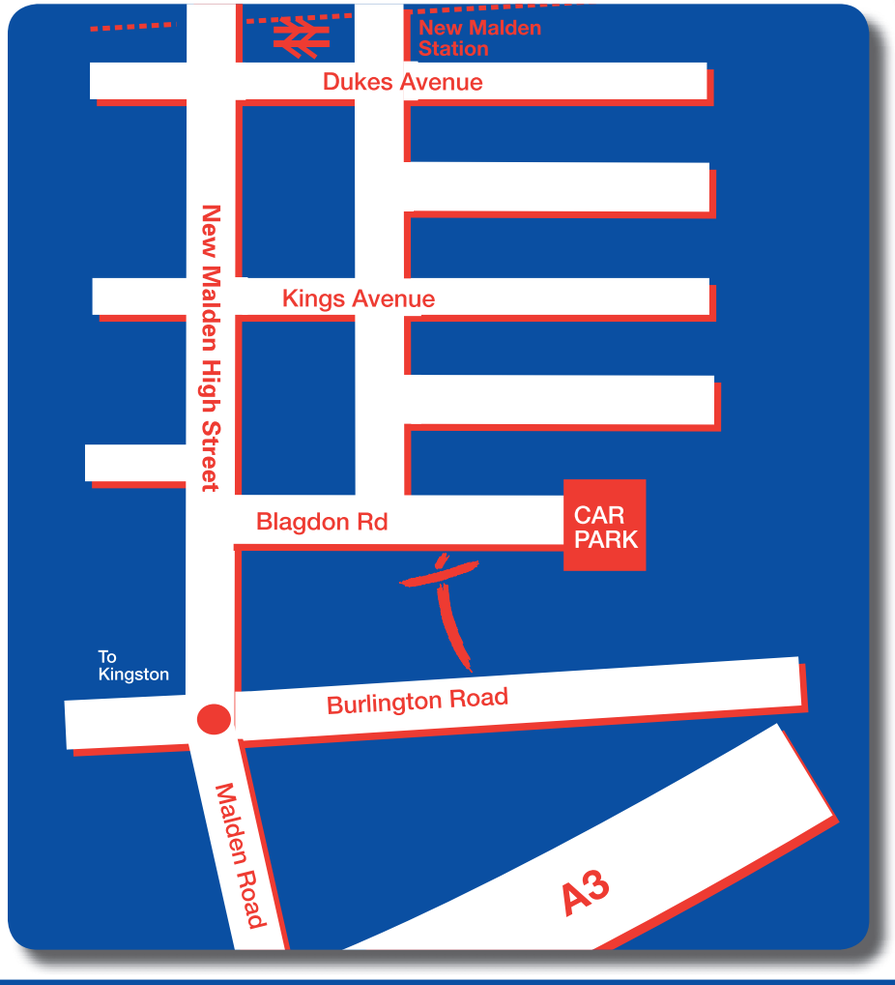
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